(c) whether Nepali speaking population is also included in the list of linguistic minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Linguistic Minorities have not been defined in the Constitution or by any statute. They get defined when their mother tongue differs from the regional language of the area. They are identified by the State Government/ Union Territory on the basis of Census data. The details of linguistic Minorities, State-wise, are given in Chapter III of the 40th report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, tabled in the House on 16.8.2004. This is also available on the website **www.nclm.nic.in.**

The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, appointed under Article 350B of the Constitution, has been entrusted with the duty to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for Linguistic Minorities in the Constitution.

(c) Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has reported that, on the basis of inputs received from various State Governments and Census records, Nepali is spoken in the States of Assam, West Bengal (major language in Darjeeling District), Meghalaya, Sikkim (regional language) and Mizoram.

Report of National Linguistic and Religious Minorities Commission

†2173. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Linguistic and Religious Minorities Commission has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if not, what is the tenure of this Commission;

(c) whether Government are considering to extend the tenure of this Commission; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Upto 31st March, 2007.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.